

Beginner



A1 (Breakthrough)

R A I N B O W S

The Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett



edisco

The Author Frances Hodgson Burnett



Frances Hodgson, born in Manchester (England) in 1849, emigrates to the U.S.A. with her family at the end of the American Civil War (1860-1865). She lives in Knoxville, Tennessee. She comes from an English industrial city and Knoxville looks like¹ a green paradise because it is in the American countryside. When her parents die, she starts writing stories to get money to live.

She marries Swan Burnett when she is 23 and becomes a very famous writer. Her first success is *That Lass O'Lowrie's* (1877), a book about a family who works in a mine². Ten years later, her novel *Little Lord Fauntleroy* (1886) becomes a classic for children: the book is very popular and a lot of mothers dress³ their sons like the hero of the story.

Her public and private life is very busy: her plays, novels⁴ and stories are very popular; she divorces her first husband in 1898, re-marries in 1900 and divorces again two years later.

After 1902, she divides her time between England and Long Island, New York. In her splendid English home she has a rose garden, where she writes her famous book, *The Secret Garden* (1912). It is a story of courage and friendship with a happy ending. Her novels also include *The Little Princess* (1905) and *The Lost Prince* (1915). She dies in 1924 in Long Island. Over forty books are published in her lifetime.

1. *looks like* is similar to.

2. *mine*: a system of tunnels in the ground for the extraction of minerals by digging.

3. *dress*: to put clothes on.

4. *novel*: a long printed story about imaginary characters and events.

Miss Mary Quite Contrary

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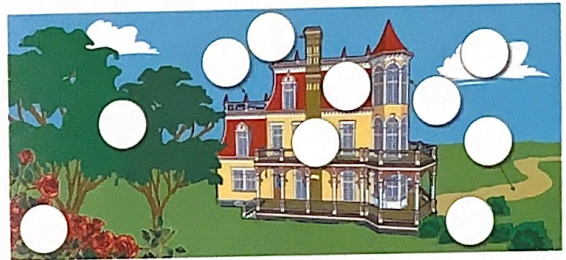


Chapter

BEFORE READING

- 1 Match the words in the box with the objects in the picture. Write letters in the circles.

a. bush • b. chimney • c. clouds • d. manor • e. pathway • f. pinnacles • g. roof • h. rose-garden • i. trees • j. windows




- 2 Answer these questions in a personal way.


- Where do you live, in a house or in a flat?
- How many rooms are there?
- Is there a garden or a park near your house?
- Do you ever go there?
- Have you got any brothers or sisters?

- 3 Put the words below into the right group.

aunt • boy • father • girl • husband • mother • nephew • niece • uncle • wife

husband 

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-
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-
-

wife 

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-
-
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The Secret Garden

Miss Mary Quite Contrary



This story is about a selfish and spoiled girl. She was born in India. She is an orphan. When her parents die, she goes to her uncle's house in Yorkshire.

It is a great desolate house, on the windy moorland. It is 600 years old and there are about 100 rooms. There are gardens and trees around it.



Hil My name's Mary Lennox. This is my new house, Misselthwaite Manor.

Hello, my name's Mrs Medlock. I'm the housekeeper at Misselthwaite Manor.

I look after this spoiled, thin girl, but I don't really like her very much.

I work for Mr Archibald Craven. He's a hunchback and a lonely widower.

My wife is dead and now I live in the west wing of the manor.

This is my maid, Martha. She is a cheerful young woman. She has a rosy face.

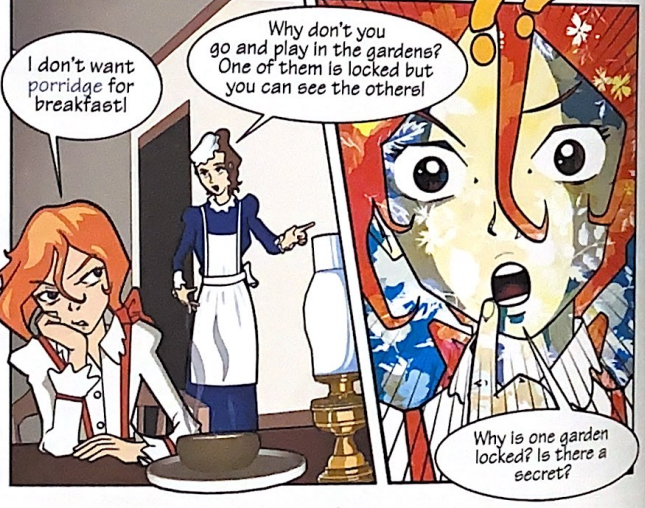
She is very different from the servants in India; she is helpful but she isn't servile.

This is the room where Mary sleeps and spends her time. It is cold and gloomy. She must not go into other rooms in the manor. They are locked.



Hello!
I look after Miss Mary,
I make her breakfast and
I tidy up her room.

One winter morning Mary is bored, as usual.



I don't want porridge for breakfast!

Why don't you go and play in the gardens? One of them is locked but you can see the others!

??

Why is one garden locked? Is there a secret?

First Mary puts on her coat and her hat, then she runs to the gardens.



She is curious about the secret garden.



Maybe the rose-gardens are nice in the summer, but now everything's bare and ugly!

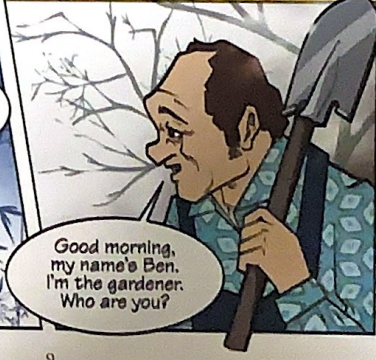


I can see no secret garden. Where is it?



I like this mystery!

Suddenly an old man appears. He has got a spade over his shoulders. When he sees the little girl, he looks surprised.



Good morning, my name's Ben. I'm the gardener. Who are you?



AFTER READING • Miss Mary Quite Contrary

WORKING ON THE TEXT

- 1 **KET** Read the sentences below. Mark them true (T) or false (F) or not mentioned (NM). Correct the false ones.
- | | T | F | NM |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Mary comes from England. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. She lives in a small house in Yorkshire. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Mary likes Yorkshire very much. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Mrs Medlock works at Misselthwaite Manor. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Mrs Medlock likes Mary very much. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Mr Craven is Mary's father. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Mr Craven lives at Misselthwaite Manor with his wife and his children. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Martha the maid is like the servants in India. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Mary likes gardening. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. Mary has a lot of friends at Misselthwaite Manor. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k. Ben the Gardener helps Mary to find the secret garden. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 2 Complete the description of Mary Lennox with the correct words from the box.

fun • housekeeper • maid • orphan • rooms • uncle

Mary Lennox is an ⁽¹⁾ from India. She travels to Yorkshire because her ⁽²⁾ lives there in a manor. When she arrives at the manor, Mrs Medlock, the ⁽³⁾, welcomes her and Martha, the ⁽⁴⁾, looks after her. She has to live in two ⁽⁵⁾ in the big house but she often has ⁽⁶⁾ in the gardens around the manor.

WORKING ON VOCABULARY

- 3 Unscramble the following words from the story.
- a. amron → m _ _ _ _
 - b. naphor → o _ _ _ _
 - c. saletode → d _ _ _ _ _
 - d. shelfis → s _ _ _ _ _
 - e. phullef → h _ _ _ _ _
 - f. mogoly → g _ _ _ _ _
 - g. ropiderg → p _ _ _ _ _
 - h. borin → r _ _ _ _

- 4 **KET** Read the sentences about Misselthwaite Manor. Choose the best word (A, B or C) for each space.
- Mary cannot go into other rooms in the manor. They are
A. closed B. locked C. dirty
 - Mr Craven's wife is He is a widower.
A. alive B. death C. dead
 - Martha is Mary's maid. She after her.
A. sees B. looks C. watches
 - The robin always flies and sings: it is really company for Mary.
A. lively B. spoiled C. alive
 - The maid is usually and nice to Mary.
A. beautiful B. helpless C. helpful

WORKING ON GRAMMAR

- 5 Complete the sentences with the correct *preposition*. Choose from the list below.

about • around • at • from • for • in • into • on

- Misselthwaite Manor is Yorkshire.
- Mary comes India.
- There are a lot of trees and gardens the manor.
- Mrs Medlock is home when Mary arrives.
- When Mary is bored, she puts her coat and runs the gardens.
- Mary is curious a secret garden and she is looking it.

WORKING ON SKILLS

Speaking

- 6 **Pair Work.** Ask and answer questions with the *present simple*. Use the prompts below.
- Where / Mary / from?
 - How many rooms / be / there / in the manor?
 - Where / Mr Craven / live?
 - What / Mary / have / for breakfast?
 - Who / Mary / meet / in the garden?

Listening

- 7 Listen to the descriptions and match them with the words below.

- | | | |
|---------|----------|-------------|
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | 6. |
| a. rose | b. manor | c. gardener |
| d. maid | e. robin | f. spade |

Writing

- 8 Write a short description (about 50 words) of Misselthwaite Manor. Use the words below.

Yorkshire • moorland • 600 years old • windy • desolate • trees • 100 rooms • gardens

Start like this: *Misselthwaite Manor is in Yorkshire. It is a*

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- 9 **GAME.** Two minutes for a video! Watch the video "How to make porridge" on **YouTube** and circle the words you hear.

apples • brown sugar • butter • fork • glass • oat • oil • oven • salt • saucepan • water • wooden spoon



YORKSHIRE FOOD

If you go to Yorkshire, you must eat some of the local food! Why don't you have a piece of **parkin** (a sweet ginger¹ cake) or maybe you prefer a piece of **Yorkshire gingerbread** (a strange form of gingerbread with some crystallised ginger in the middle)?

Do you like cooking? Then, you can make a good **Yorkshire pudding** in your kitchen! You only need a few ingredients:

- some eggs
- a cup of flour²
- a glass of milk
- a pinch of salt.

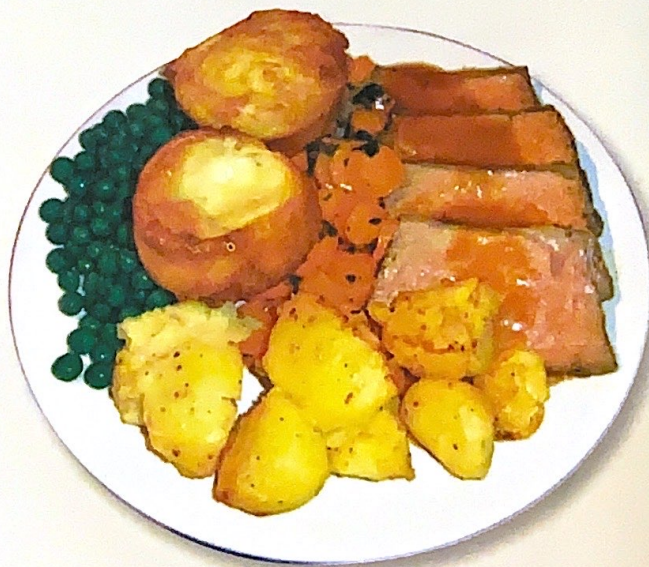
Now you are ready to start: mix eggs and flour, add milk slowly and a pinch³ of salt. Wait 25-30 minutes; then bake⁴ the batter⁵ for about half an hour. Serve it with roast beef and some potatoes. Your golden-brown pudding will be a success!

1. *ginger*: a spice to give an aromatic flavour, it's an orange colour.
2. *flour*: white or brown powder made from grain used for making bread, cakes, pasta, etc.

3. *pinch*: very small quantity.

4. *bake*: to cook in the oven.

5. *batter*: the liquid mixture of all the ingredients.



Yorkshire pudding with roast beef and potatoes